Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SY-05 USSS-00 /045 W

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O R 031646Z DEC 76 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1581 INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE AMCONSUL MILAN AMCONSUL NAPLES

CONFIDENTIAL ROME 19760

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER WILL NOT ACCOMPANY ANDREOTTI

ON US VISIT

1. ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY CONFIRMS THIS MORNING'S PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI WILL NOT ACCOMPANY PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI ON US VISIT. ACCORDING TO UNDERSECRETARY RADI, FORLANI WAS OBLIGED TO CANCEL PLANS AT LAST MINUTE AFTER PARLIAMENTARY GROUP HEADS, MEETING LAST EVENING, SCHEDULED CHAMBER DEBATE ON RATIFICATION OF OSIMO TREATY (SETTLING ITALIAN-YUGOSLAV BOUNDRY) FOR DEC 6-8. RADI (WHO IS POLITICALLY CLOSE TO FORLANI) TELLS US THAT OSIMO DEBATE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED AT ANY OTHER TIME, SINCE VITAL ECONOMIC AND LABOR LEGISLATION MUST BE TAKEN UP IN REMAINING SESSIONS PRIOR TO PARLIAMENTARY CHRISTMAS RECESS. GIVEN OPPOSITION TO OSIMO ACCORD FROM NEO-FASCIST MSI/DN PARTY, RADI SAID FORLANI'S ABSENCE DURING DEBATE WOULD BE CONSTRUED AS INDICATION THAT DC SUPPORT FOR AGREEMENT WAS LESS THAN FULL.

2. COMMENT: WHILE WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE NOT TO ACCEPT OFFICIAL EXPLANATION AT FACE VALUE, WE HAVE HEARD THAT FOR INTERNAL DC POLITICAL REASONS FORLANI MAY WISH TO PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN HIM AND ANDREOTTI. FORLANI HAS RECENTLY RECONFIDENTIAL

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ENTERED DC POLITICAL FRAY (ROME 19252) AND CURRENT POSTURING

IN PREPARATION FOR DEC 10 DC NATIONAL COUNCIL MAY HAVE HAI
SOME BEARING ON FORLANI DECISION. VOLPE

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